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**THE MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF PORK BY THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.**

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[*Abstract.*]

The microscopical station at Chicago of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, recently organized, is conducted under a plan arranged by Dr. D. V. Salmon.

In regard to the examination of pork for trichinæ, in Europe I find that in Prussia alone as many as 24,000 inspectors are employed, and that they perform a double duty and search for the swine disease called measles, as well as make a microscopical examination of pork for trichinæ.

The official report to which I refer offers the following facts and figures:

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Inspectors.</i>	<i>Hogs.</i>	<i>Hogs with trichinæ.</i>
1886.....	22,939	4,834,898	2,114
1887.....	23,297	5,486,416	2,776
1888.....	23,836	6,051,249	3,111
1889... ..	24,020	5,500,678	3,026

I am told that the work of pork inspection in Germany is not conducted by microscopists who devote their whole time to the work and are specially trained for the purpose, but that persons who follow various trades and occupations are appointed, who are spread over the country and examine locally the pork used in whatever city, town, or village they reside. The plan appears to be rather imperfect, from the fact that some of the most recent outbreaks of trichinosis in Germany occurred from eating pork which had been officially inspected.

The law under which this special inspection was authorized is the act of Congress approved March 3, 1891, entitled "An act to pro-

vide for the inspection of live cattle, hogs, and the carcasses and products thereof which are the subject of interstate commerce, and for other purposes.”

The corps of assistant microscopists number 18 women and 13 men, who are now without exception thoroughly reliable and expert in their work. They all had to be instructed in the use of the instrument and the preparation of samples on the compressors, but they readily learned the technique of the microscope and the simple methods of making preparations, and I was surprised to find how rapidly this was accomplished.

A portion of the diaphragm and tenderloin of each carcass inspected is brought to us in a small tin box, 108 of which are enclosed in a metal case having a combination lock, and brought to my office, which is situated outside the stock yards. Two portions are clipped off each of the two samples in a box, and, being placed on a slip of glass, are teased out with needles under filtered water. A second glass being placed over the first, the two glasses are gently pressed together and rubbed until the preparations are almost as transparent as the glass itself. The glasses are then placed in the frame of the compressor and screwed down. When placed under a power of two-thirds of an inch, trichinæ, if present, either capsulated or free, can be immediately detected and recorded.

When an infected specimen is found it is reported to the gentleman in charge of the room and afterwards brought to my private room for final report. In addition, Dr. Bernard and Dr. Belzer both personally examine the specimens, as far as time permits, after the primary examination by the assistants.

After killing, the carcasses are kept in the cooling-room until my report is delivered, which is always ready on the following morning. A printed number is attached to each carcass, which corresponds to a similar number placed in the box containing the samples taken from that animal. Our inspector in charge of the abattoir has therefore no trouble in picking out the carcasses which I declare to be infected, and they are at once, under his personal supervision, removed from the cooling-room and dealt with according to law.

A microscopical meat-inspection station is about to be established at Omaha on the same plan as the one at Chicago, and will probably be in operation during the month of September, and the organization of other stations will rapidly follow, as the large dealers find it to their interest to secure this Government inspection and thus improve the quality and value of their products.